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# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 6, 2011**

### **VA Black Hills Health Care System to Take Applications for New Caregiver Program**

#### ***New Program enhances VA services for Family Caregivers***

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published the interim final rule for implementing the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010. This new rule will provide additional support to eligible post-9/11 Veterans who elect to receive their care in a home setting from a primary Family Caregiver. The new program builds on the foundation of Caregiver support now provided at VA and reflects what families and clinicians have long known; that Family Caregivers in a home environment can enhance the health and well-being of Veterans under VA care.

Additional services for primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans and Service members include a stipend, mental health services, and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan. Comprehensive Caregiver training and medical support are other key components of this program.

Veterans and their Family Caregivers can apply for the new services May 9 at [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov) or by contacting Danielle Dunn, Caregiver Support Coordinator for VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS). She is also available to assist with helping Veterans and their Family Caregivers to access other support programs the VA offers to Family Caregivers.

"We are pleased to add these new Caregiver Benefits to the wide range of services the VA already offers to support Veterans and their Family Caregivers," said Dunn. "With these new resources in place, we are beginning a new era in the delivery of enhanced services for Family Caregivers. Family Caregivers are our partners in providing quality care to our Nations Heroes; Caregivers truly are the Heroes on the home front."

Assistance and information on additional resources are also available to Family Caregivers through the VA's New National Caregiver Support Line, 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Veterans and Caregivers with questions about the new program may contact Danielle Dunn, BHHCS Caregiver Support Coordinator at 605-745-2000, ext. 92347.

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